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Editorial Notes and Comment



RALLY Day should be a very important day in the church as well as in the Sunday-school. It is a time when the church can get behind the school and show interest in its work and give it much sympathetic help. By all means the Rally Day exercises should be held at the regular hour of the church's public worship. This will show that the school is a part of the church, a fact which is sometimes overlooked. It sometimes happens that the school has so little connection with the rest of the church, that those in the school feel that it is an independent organization. Those not in the school feel that it is outside of the church. If nothing else is accomplished by Rally Day than to establish the proper relationship between the Sunday-school and the rest of the church, great results may be expected.

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RALLY DAY, or rather the time preceding it, should be a period of most earnest and prayerful self-examination by the officers and teachers of the Sunday-school. The first point to be looked into specially should be as to whether there is a right understanding of the purpose of the Sunday-school. Its true purpose is just the same as that of the church. It is to bring souls to Christ and to fit them for his service and for the enjoyment of his salvation. The chief difference is that in the Sunday-school there is more opportunity for the close personal touch. The officer or teacher should ask himself whether or not he is in the Sunday-school that he may aid in accomplishing its great purpose. If he is there for any other reason, he is likely to accomplish very little. One more question he should ask himself, is whether or not he is putting into the Sunday-school the same kind of earnestness, enthusiasm and thought that he puts into his business or his pleasure. When each officer and teacher makes such an examination, and finds where he is lacking, and then determines with the help of God to do his best to make the Sunday-school a success, there will be no question about improvement in the school. Where officers and teachers are in earnest and doing their best, there will be no trouble with the scholars.

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THE BIBLE in the public school or not? This is a live question in some communities? It is sometimes said that the Catholics keep the Bible out of these schools, and doubtless they do all in their power to accomplish this end. They do not usually come out openly and oppose its use, but they make their influence felt in ways best known to themselves. But they are not the only people who fight the reading of the Bible in the public schools. Not long ago in one of our Southern cities it was proposed in the School Board to make the reading of the Bible obligatory in each school. A committee was appointed which proposed a plan and made selections of the

Scriptures for this purpose. When the Board came to consider it, it was found that a number of people were present to prevent the passage of the resolution. Among those who were present was a Universalist preacher. It is not surprising that he should oppose it. Nor was there any surprise in the fact that a Jewish rabbi should oppose the reading of the Bible, lest Jewish children should be taught to read the New Testament. The others who opposed this movement were all Baptists. They were one of the most influential preachers in the city and several Baptist laymen, who were prominent in church and business affairs. They argued that this reading of the Scriptures was a union of Church and State. Verily, some people are hard to understand!

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SUCCESS or failure sometimes hangs on what seems to be a small matter. A president of a bank was looking for a private secretary. A young man applied for the position. The banker was pleased with his appearance and his manner. He gave him some dictation which he took easily and wrote off quickly on the typewriter. To try him a little further the banker told him to go home and write him a letter applying for the position and to mail it, so that it would reach him the next morning. The letter came in due time. This is what the banker found. The letter was written on a leaf torn from a cheap blankbook, the penmanship was bad, the spelling and the grammar were incorrect, the composition was more like that of a child than that of a man. The President said at once he could not trust his correspondence to such a man as that, and remarked that if that young man had paid as much attention to those minor matters as he had seemed to do as to other matters that he thought were more important, he would have been glad to take him into his office. Are not many of us just like the young man? We are not willing to do the elementary things that God gives us to do, and yet we wonder why He does not give us great things to do for Him. He will advance us just as fast as we show fitness for the work, and the fitness for great things comes from doing little things well.

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CHURCH ADVERTISING will be fully discussed at a meeting to be held on Friday, the 29th, in the John Marshall High School auditorium in this city. This meeting will be under the auspices of the Richmond Advertisers' Club. All the pastors of all denominations and the laymen of all the churches are invited to be present. The plans proposed are entirely conservative and practical, and if they are carried out, this movement will mean as much for the churches of Richmond as anything that has been done in a long time. Every man who has at heart the welfare of the churches or the city ought to attend this meeting.

VACATIONS are usually supposed to belong to city people. It is very true they need them. The crowded conditions of the cities and the nervous strain caused by the noise and the rush, make it very necessary that the dweller in the city should get off for awhile to enjoy the fresh air and the quiet of the country. But country people need vacations also; not for the same reason that city people need them, but for almost the opposite reasons. Those who live quietly in the country and do the hard, monotonous work of farm and home, need mental refreshment and recreation. This can best be secured in the city. The city man needs to go to the country in the summer to escape the heat. The country man will find the winter the best time to go to the city. He can afford the time better than at any other season. And he can avoid largely the discomforts of the country. Such a visit is well worth planning.

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FUNDAMENTALS are not always attractive. This is frequently true in the matter of education. Boys and girls and many parents do not realize the value of fundamentals. The boy is ambitious and anxious to go into business and make a living for himself. He looks over the requirements, as published in the school catalogues, and sees what is needed for a certain profession or calling. These requirements ordinarily presuppose a knowledge of the fundamentals of education, both as to the subjects and the mental training which should have been acquired. The boy does not see the bearing of these things upon his proposed course and passes them by and goes into the special course of study, many a time entirely unprepared for it. To tell such a boy that he must spend months, it may be years, in the study of spelling, reading, writing and arithmetic and other elementary studies, would seem foolishness to him. But these things are essential to success. The acquiring of them are well worth all the cost in time and money. It may take the boy a little longer to become a producer in the business world, but he will soon make up for lost time. Parents should watch their children very closely and not let them take short cuts in education, which will be a cause of loss, if not failure, all their lives.

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PROHIBITION does not prohibit. Prohibition in Maine has proven a failure. Sailors drink like fishes. These are statements that have been heard many times. Put along with these this report that has recently come from Portland, Me. During the recent visit of the United States warships to that harbor 2,000 sailors were given each ten days shore leave. During that time not a sailor was arrested and not a sailor came in contact with a police officer. There was not an indication of drunkenness in public on the part of these boys while they were in port.